

Approved 03/14/2013

Exeter Fire District

(February 14, 2013)

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lacouture called the February 14th meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:07pm. Present were commissioners Lacouture, Wilbur, Slater, Rooney, Chappell and Nievera. There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Treasurer's Report

Due to illness, Ms. MacDonald was not present therefore there was no report of the treasurer.

Previous Month's Minutes

Mr. Wilber moved (Mr. Slater second) acceptance of the minutes of the January 10th meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nievera will re-circulate these minutes and file them with the Secretary of State's office at his earliest convenience.

Communications

Mr. Nievera reported that all operational mail has been given to the treasurer for her action. Mr. Lacouture has received two invoices from VFIS. Mr. Nievera will ensure that they are delivered to Ms. MacDonald at his earliest convenience. He also mentioned that VFIS would begin to send their invoices electronically.

Old Business

Mr. Nievera reported as to the collections to date.

Scott Kettelle presented a budget request for the EEDC of \$352,075, an increase over last year of 6.8%. He cited health care costs, a new expense for propane to run two emergency generators and the need to update & consolidate five computers into two newer machines. He also cites the need to replace the voice recorder in the center, which is becoming more and more costly to repair. There is no salary increase in his budget; Instead, the dispatchers would like any increase put into their pension accounts. Mr. Kettelle also mentioned that VFIS was in the process of raising their deductible to \$10,000 (from \$1,000) due to the number of lightning strikes the center has taken over the past few years. The management of the EEDC is actively working with VFIS to have this deductible increase minimized.

Chief Chamberlain (EVFD#1) presented a budget request for EVFD#1 of \$186,524, an increase over last year of 5.5%. He cited the

need to do extensive repairs in the bathroom facilities in his station and replace several doors. He stated that he could not keep his training line flat, as he has in the past two years. EVFD#1 is currently considering the purchase of a new truck. They have applied for three grants to help with that purchase.

Chief Franklin (EVFC#2) presented a budget request for EVFC#2 of \$152,700, an increase over last year of 1.9%. Chief Franklin cited the difficulty of obtaining grant money with larger paid departments also competing for the same money. He offered to answer any questions the board may have had concerning his budget.

Chief Dennis Colacone (Exeter Rescue Corps) presented a budget request for the Exeter Rescue Corps of \$501,338, an increase over last year of 15.3%. Chief Colacone presented a slide presentation that covered run totals, salary and population comparisons with charts and graphs. The sense of the board was that the presentation was far too complex and confusing for the budget/annual meeting. There was a good deal of confusion over his salary line item as well as his benefits line item. Mr. Colacone was asked to simplify his presentation and “break out” his salary line with more specificity.

Mr. Lacouture presented a budget request for the fire district administration of \$24,457, an increase over last year of 2.6%. He stated that an increase of 3% had been budgeted for the collector’s salary.

Mr. Lacouture stated that the 9.1% increase over last year would not, in his opinion, be approved by the voters at the annual meeting. He asked all the organizations to go back to their respective boards to try to reach an overall increase of no more than 3%.

New Business

Due to the lateness of the hour Mr. Wilbur moved (Mr. Slater second) postponing the remainder of the agenda until the next meeting. That motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Exeter Fire District Board of Commissioners will be a budget hearing that will be held on February 28th. That meeting will be held at the Center for Threat, Risk and Vulnerability, located at 742 Ten Rod Rd. in Exeter. (This is the site of the former Jehovah Witness bldg.) That meeting will also begin at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Wilbur moved (Mr. Slater second) adjournment at 9:24 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Nievera, Clerk

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